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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,104	02/21/2002	Kaoru Koike	09792909-5344	1692

26263 7590 02/20/2004

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CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080

EXAMINER

ERDEM, FAZLI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2826

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,104

Applicant(s)

KOIKE ET AL.

Examiner

Fazli Erdem

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Election response filed on 11/13/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-11 and 38-49 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 28-37 and 50-86 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 17-27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 28-37 and 50-86 allowed.
2. Claims 13 and 17-27 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12, 14-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizutani et al. (6,641,962) in view of Nishi et al. (5,464,715) further in view of Torigoe (5,231,471) further in view of Matsumoto et al. (6,151,120) further in view of Saiki et al. (5,715,037).

Regarding Claims 12, 14-16, Mizutani et al. disclose micro devices manufacturing method utilizing concave and convex alignment mark patterns where an exposure method includes a first step of forming on a substrate an alignment mark including a concave and convex pattern, a second step of forming a coat over the alignment mark and the other area on the substrate, a third step of flattening the coat and a fourth step of applying a photosensitive material on the coat flattened by the third step and projecting a mask pattern. Mizutani et al. fail to disclose the required pattern structure, pattern structure in the proper configuration,

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support/holding structure and the support/holding structure in the required manner. However, Nishi et al. disclose a method of driving a mask stage and method of mask alignment where the required pattern structure is disclosed. Furthermore, Torigoe discloses an alignment and exposure apparatus where the required pattern structure in the required configuration is disclosed. Matsumoto et al. disclose an exposure apparatus and method where the required support/holding structure is disclosed. Finally, Saiki et al. disclose a scanning exposure apparatus where the required support/holding structure in the required manner is disclosed.

It would have been obvious to one of having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the required pattern, required pattern structure in the required configuration, required support/holding structure and the required support/holding structure in the required configuration in Mizutani et al. as taught by Nishi et al., Torigoe, Matsumoto et al., and Saiki et al. respectively in order to have a semiconductor-making apparatus with higher performance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fazli Erdem whose telephone number is (703) 305-3868. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (703) 308-6601. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Starting February 4, 2004, Examiner Fazli Erdem's phone number will be changed to (571) 272-1914 and his SPE Nathan Flynn's phone number will be changed to (571) 272-1915

FE

February 7, 2004

NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800